

Support for new claims 1-16 may be found throughout the specification, particularly at Examples 11 and 12, at pages 41-48.

Support for new claims 17-28 may also be found throughout the specification, particularly at Examples 13 and 14, at pages 48-52.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. The Examiner is hereby requested to enter these amendments.

Applicants submit that all claim amendments presented herein or previously are made solely in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims and should not be interpreted as acquiescence to any rejections or ground of unpatentability in this or related patents or applications. Applicants reserve the right to file at least one continuing application to pursue any subject matter that is canceled or removed from prosecution due to the amendments.

Conclusions:

Applicants request that the above amendments be entered prior to examination of this application. Early and favorable examination is hereby requested.

In the event that a telephone conversation could expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (480) 505-0540 x3213.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

January 13, 2004

By:

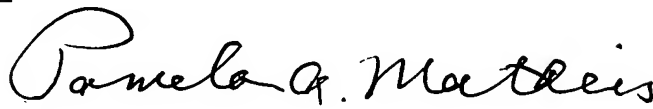
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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL, Express Mail Label #ER072745998US, in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2004.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1/13/04



Pamela A. Matheis

**ATTACHMENT TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Marked Up Paragraph from Page 1, Lines 3-8**

[This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/325,994 filed June 4, 1999 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/101,309 filed July 7, 1998 which was filed as international patent application PCT/CA98/00361 on April 9, 1998 which claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application 60/043,215 filed April 9, 1997.]

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/638,900, filed on August 15, 2000; which is a continuation of Application No. 09/419,877, filed on October 15, 1999; which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/325,994, filed on June 4, 1999; which is a continuation of Application No. 09/101,309, filed on July 7, 1998; which was filed as International Application No. PCT/CA98/00361 on April 9, 1998; which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/043,215, filed on April 9, 1997. The disclosure of each of the above applications is incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.